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NPIC/D-111-76
25 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community
SUBJECT : Assignment to NPIC of COMIREX Operations Functions

1. In the restructuring of Intelligence Community mechanisms under the President's Executive Order I propose that NPIC be assigned responsibility for the operations functions which have been performed by the COMIREX. Under operations functions -- distinct from COMIREX program review and planning functions -- I include those functions concerned with the coordination of imagery collection and exploitation requirements.

2. The attached paper briefly describes how this proposal could be effected and efficiencies of operations and manpower which would be gained by doing so.

3. I believe that if we effect this proposal there would result the following additional benefits to our conduct of national imagery reconnaissance programs.

a. Those concerned with imagery program review and planning would be free from the management of day-to-day operational functions but could continue to derive staff and data support from those performing operational functions.

b. Interaction between imagery collection and imagery exploitation would be strengthened while preserving the healthy separation between the management of imagery collection resources and management of imagery exploitation resources.

c. Customer interests in how imagery collection is operating would be focused in and represented by one organization -- NPIC. At present, customer needs register in two organizations -- COMIREX and NPIC -- in different ways.

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d. A single organizational point of responsibility for (1) coordination of collection-exploitation requirements, and (2) the use of exploitation resources, will enhance efficient coordination of the two factors relative to resources available and needed. NPIC is the organizational point at which this responsibility would be performed most productively because NPIC interacts directly with a wide variety of customers for imagery products.

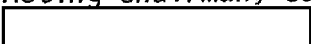


JOHN J. HICKS
Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachment:
a/s

Distribution:

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 - 1 - NPIC/IEG
 - 1 - NPIC/TSG
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Attachment to:
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Assignment to NPIC of the Operational Functions
of COMIREX, EXSUBCOM and ICRS

1. The following examines an arrangement in which operational functions performed by the permanent staffs of COMIREX, EXSUBCOM and ICRS would be assigned to the National Photographic Interpretation Center. It is assumed in this examination that those COMIREX Staff functions concerning program planning would not be assigned to NPIC. The examination is based on two main objectives:

a. To perform the operational functions in a way which would ensure continued coordination of operational requirements with and responsive to the intelligence community.

b. Consolidate to the extent possible like functions now performed by the COMIREX staffs and by NPIC to gain operations efficiency and manpower savings.

2. This examination first considered all stated functions of the COMIREX staff organizations. These functions were then classified as "operational," or "policy/planning." A breakdown of these functions is shown in Attachment A. The "operational" functions were then examined as to (a) the feasibility of their being performed by NPIC; (b) provision for community coordination; and (c) the feasibility of combining like operational functions presently performed by NPIC, ICRS and EXSUBCOM.

3. The examination has resulted in the concept described below. Advantages, disadvantages and foreseeable problems are also included.

4. Concept: Form an entity which is organizationally a part of NPIC. The entity would receive day-to-day direction from the Director, NPIC, in accordance with policy guidance from the Chairman, COMIREX (or new title depending upon the new CFI/ICS organization).

a. Function:

(1) Serve as the focal point for processing all collection and exploitation requirements, to include receipt, verification, validation and prioritization.

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- (2) Provide collection guidance.
- (3) Coordinate exploitation guidance for national exploitation.
- (4) Process all transactions relative to activation, deactivation and changes to target collection and exploitation status.
- (5) Consolidate and maintain a national data base which includes present ICRS and EXSUBCOM files/holdings.
- (6) Maintain a dynamic record of collection and exploitation satisfaction and produce statistical summaries of collection and exploitation accomplishments.
- (7) Provide the combined collection/exploitation requirements processing detachment [REDACTED]

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b. Composition: Full time representatives from existing COMIREX member agencies; the IEG Data Base Branch; ICRS staff personnel; EXSUBCOM staff personnel; elements of the PSG Target Data Branch, and those COMIREX, ICRS, EXSUBCOM personnel presently earmarked for duty [REDACTED] It is estimated that this entity would have approximately 60 personnel assigned with about 30% located [REDACTED] This compares with the number of about 70 EXSUBCOM, ICRS and NPIC personnel now performing these various functions.

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c. Feasibility: There is no known overriding factor or peculiarity which would render the above described concept infeasible. There are potential problem areas but these are surmountable.

d. Potential Problem Areas:

(1) NPIC currently inputs data to ICRS which is used in ICRS assessments and statistical reports on collection accomplishments. The ICRS output is accomplished by support provided to ICRS by OD&E, OJCS, OGCR and perhaps other offices. The concept described herein charges NPIC with responsibility for input as well as output. The compatibility of NPIC computer systems and those at Headquarters may be a problem. This aspect should be examined by computer system personnel and there are several ways in which any problems could be resolved.

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(2) COMIREX member agencies may be reluctant to provide a full time representative to the NPIC entity. This may be overcome by the fact that the concept affords an unprecedented opportunity for their personal participation and coordination in the day-to-day processing of collection/exploitation requirements.

c. Advantages:

(1) A significant advantage inherent in the concept is the concurrent processing of collection and exploitation requirements and the streamlining of the COMIREX transaction process. This will result in a dynamic data base of high integrity; reduce the time to process COMIREX transactions (changes, adds, deletes) from weeks to "same day;" expedite the flow of collection/exploitation requirements to get in step with the time constraints envisioned for the future and in general simplify the entire collection/exploitation process. (CAMS is intended to accomplish these improvements, but it is believed that CAMS is more likely to do so if used in conjunction with the concept proposed.)

(2) Consolidation of ICRS and EXSUBCOM functions with the Data Base Branch of IEG as well as with other NPIC functions has potential for manpower savings of ten or more positions.

5. The foregoing does not show committees such as the present EXSUBCOM and ICRS subcommittees of COMIREX with their community representatives. In the concept, representatives serving full-time at NPIC were substituted for the present committees. Alternatives would be to continue the present committees or to consolidate them into a single committee, with NPIC in either case providing staff support.

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Attachment A to:
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COMIREX Staff Functions

Operational Functions

- Standing and Mission Guidance for Collection and Exploitation
- Maintenance of Data
- Assessment and Reporting on National Imagery Collection
Accomplishment and National Exploitation Results

Policy/Planning Functions

- NRP Long Range Operations Planning and System Development
- Advanced System Planning
- Sanitization, Downgrading, etc., of Imagery Products
- Collection and Use of Imagery for MC&G
- Civil Agencies Utilization of Satellite Imagery

ADP Data Handling (CADCOG/CAMS)

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